

## Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 JUSE-00 COME-00 EB-07

TRSE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

FTC-01 SS-15 NSC-05 STR-04 /087 W

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R 100918Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4042

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR KU

SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

REF: STATE 234765

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1. IN KUWAIT BOYCOTT OFFICE IS PART OF CUSTOMS AND PORTS OFFICE WHICH RECENTLY BECAME PART OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS; PREVIOUSLY THIS OFFICE HAD BEEN PART OF MINISTRY OF FINANCE. BOYCOTT OFFICE DIRECTOR IS MOHAMAD AL-GHARABALLY, AND HIS SUPERIOR IS ASSISTANT UNDERSECRETARY FOR CUSTOMS ABD AL-RAHMAN MULLA HUSSAIN WHO NORMALLY REPRESENTS KUWAIT AT BOYCOTT MEETINGS IN DAMASCUS. AT CUSTOMS THERE ARE REPRESENTATIVES FROM BOYCOTT OFFICE TO CHECK DOCUMENTS AND CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN. THEY VERIFY WHETHER FOREIGN COMPANIES ARE ON BOYCOTT LIST. NO GOODS CAN BE CLEARED WITHOUT CLEARANCE BY THESE

BOYCOTT OFFICIALS.

2. KUWAITIS ARE NOT ZEALOUS IN PROMOTING ARAB CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL, BUT THEY DO TAKE QUITE SERIOUSLY THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO IMPLEMENT BOYCOTT DECISIONS. THUS, THEY ARE STRICT AND, UNFORTUNATELY, RATHER EFFICIENT IN OBSERVING BOYCOTT DIRECTIVES. HOWEVER, THIS SHOULD BE SEEN IN CONTEXT OF GENERAL PATTERN OF KUWAIT NORMALLY BEING AMONG FIRST TO IMPLEMENT OTHER ARAB LEAGUE OR INTER-ARAB DECISIONS AS WELL. KUWAIT PLACES GREAT STORE IN EFFORTS TO UNIFY ARAB STATES, AND ENERGETIC IN FURTHERING PROCESS AS SEEN BY KUWAITI ROLE IN ESTABLISHING OAPEC, ARAB FUND, INTER-ARAB INVESTMENT GUARANTY CORPORATION, ARAB MARITIME PETROLEUM TRANSPORT COMPANY AND SUCH SUB-REGIONAL PROJECTS AS JOINT ARAB CARGO AIRLINE, JOINT SHIPPING COMPANY AND UNIFIED GULF CURRENCY. SIMILARLY RULE, OF LAW IS STRONGLY ESTABLISHED IN KUWAIT, AND KUWAITIS BELIEVE THAT IF BOYCOTT LAW EXISTS IT SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED FULLY.

3. BASIC BOYCOTT LAW IS ORDINANCE NUMBER 21 OF 1964, COPY OF WHICH BEING POUCHED TO L\$;,3-. EMBASSY ALSO POUCHING REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF BANK FORMS SHOWING LANGUAGE PERTAINING TO BOYCOTT. REGARDING MODALITIES OF BOYCOTT IN KUWAIT, EITHER ON ITS OWN OR FOLLOWING GENERAL ARAB BOYCOTT MEETING KUWAIT BOYCOTT OFFICE WILL SEND QUERY TO COMPANY UNDER CHALLENGE OR TO ITS LOCAL AGENT. IN GENERAL THE E "WARNINGS" ARE WORDED IN A WAY WHEREBY BURDEN OF PROOF IS PLACED ON CHALLENGED COMPANY TO EXPLAIN WHY IT SHOULD NOT BE BOYCOTTED. IF COMPANY FAILS TO OVERCOME CHALLENGE AND ASSUMING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE HAS INDICATED THAT COMPANY HAS COMMITTED BOYCOTTABLE OFFENSE, COMPANY WILL NO LONGER BE ALLOWED TO DO BUSINESS IN KUWAIT. SHOULD IT ATTEMPT TO DO SO, STIFF CRIMINAL PENALTIES WILL BE APPLIED TO THOSE IN KUWAIT ATTEMPTING TO DO BUSINESS ON BEHALF OF BOYCOTTED COMPANY.

4. WE CAN THINK OF NO EXAMPLE OF CASE WHERE LOCAL BUSINESSMEN ATTEMPTED SELL PRODUCTS OR OTHERWISE DO BUSINESS

ON BEHALF BOYCOTTED FIRMS. HOWEVER, THERE IS NOTHING TO PREVENT LOCAL AGENT OR OTHER INTERESTED PARTY IN SEEKING TO REMOVE COMPANY FROM BOYCOTT. FOR EXAMPLE, WE AWARE OF INTEREST AMONG SOME TO DO JUST THAT FOR FORD, COCA COLA AND XEROX. ONLY IMPORTANT EXCEPTION FOR BOYCOTT THAT WE KNOW OF IS THAT MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE AND INTERIOR ALLOWED TO IMPORT BOYCOTTED PRODUCTS, SUCH AS JEEPS, IF NATIONAL SECURITY OR THE LIKE IS INVOLVED. OTHER RARE EXCEPTIONS POSSIBLE ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, BUT SHOULD BE NOTED EXCEPTIONS REQUIRE CONCURRENCE LOCAL BOYCOTT OFFICE.  
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